

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 157 (9/7/05)

1. Purpose: A regularly scheduled meeting of the RACC was held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST in Room 3246 on Wednesday, September 7, 2005, to discuss and address national and regional AWIPS issues, problems and concerns.

2. Regions In Attendance: The following regions (and other NWS organizations) participated in the conference call: **ERH**: Neal DiPasquale; **WRH**: Sean Wink; **CRH**: Bill Gery, Pete Browning, Greg Noonan; **ARH**: Phil Mieczynski; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **NGIT**: Bruno Vercillo; **FSL**: Carl Bullock; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Timm Decker;

3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:

a. Status of OB5: There are currently 6 sites at OB5.0, 44 sites running OB5.0.1, and 58 sites running OB5.1. We are asking that the focal points schedule on the Oracle calendar the remaining non OB5 sites so that all operational sites can be at OB5 by early October.

b. Status of Beta Testing OB6: There are a handful of critical DRs related to OB6. They are in the process of being fixed and will need to be tested. Additional installations for the remaining beta sites has been postponed until the current issues/problems are checked in and verified. We will have beta version 5 available by next Tuesday and will be testing it here at WSH. Also, a delta upgrade for BCQ to test the WarnGen issues will be available next week.

The other OB6 issues and their status:

WarnGen DRs - to be checked in next week.

Test practice mode - several DRs to be checked in next week.

DX issue - there is a kernel adjustment available and we are testing it at a few sites. If it works out then we will go with a kernel update.

Current Prerequisites for the OB6 install:

- o All AWIPS sites must install at least OB5.
- o All AWIPS sites must install AWIPS System Modification Note 25, Application Server (AS) Rack Consolidation Procedure.
- o All WFO systems must install at least AvnFPS 3.1 and IFPS 17.6.
- o All systems that host a Center Weather Service Unit (CWSU) must complete AWIPS Patch or other Modification Note 27, CWSU ARD Software Upgrade.
- o Any local weather data on the WFO systems Archive server (AX) must be manually saved off.

c. Status of NWRWAVES Software: The NWRWAVES software is a new program that formats products for CRS use to replace the formatting done by the WWA NWR formatters and many CAFÉ scripts. The beta testing of the new software is moving forward with 8 sites now beta testing the software with additional OB6 beta sites as they are deployed. NWRWAVES is included in the OB6 baseline and these additional sites can participate in the setup and testing of the software. We are looking to develop an implementation plan to transition from WWA and CAFÉ to NWRWAVES. We will work with the regional folks on this plan and hope to finalize

it this coming Fall. We also plan on setting up a list server. We hope to get the new software stable enough so it can be available in OB6 and also for early installations to support the VTEC by November 1. However, we realize that OB6 might not be at all sites by November 1.

d. RPS List Can Be Expanded in OB5: OB5 allowed a site to increase the maximum number of radar products in their RPS list from 65 products to 150 products. The increase in the maximum number of products allowed in the RPS list is for the benefit of the AWIPS sites. Currently, a WFO is required to use the first 35 products in their RPS list to collect the nationally mandated products from each radar. For an OB4 site, this leaves only 30 additional products for their own use. OB5 with its 150 maximum limit allows for up to 115 products for the site's own use. Wayne Martin is mentioning the increased RPS limits because last week he was working on some radar related problems and noticed that a few of the OB5 sites had not yet increased their RPS limit. He has seen some instructions on the awipsinfo list server regarding how to increase the RPS limit and over the next couple of days he will formalize these instructions and post the instructions on the AWIPS System Administration Information (https://www.ops1.nws.noaa.gov/Secure/awips_install.htm) web page. He will also provide the Regional Focal Points with a listing of which offices could benefit from increasing their RPS limit.

Mike Moss of the SST stated that in OB5, a site can display the digital mesocyclone display product, which is referred to as the DMD. This product can be added to the RPS list. However, there is a problem in OB5 for dedicated radar sites that have multiple radars with the DMD display and update. Mike has a fix for the problem provided by FSL. If a site with multiple radars that wants to add the DMD to their suite of products, the site should contact Mike Moss to obtain the fix. This fix will be in OB6.

e. NCF Points of Contact: Yesterday, Wayne Martin e-mailed a copy of the NCF's Point-of-Contact listing for each AWIPS site. This Point-of-Contact listing was e-mailed to each of the AWIPS Regional Focal Points. Wayne is asking each AWIPS Regional Focal Point to forward this to each office within their Region so that each office can verify that their Point-of-Contact information is correct. If any corrections are needed, the correction should be e-mailed to the NCF. Wayne is asking that any corrections be e-mailed to the NCF by Friday, September 23.

f. Focal Point/Participants Reports, Problems and Concerns:

Alaska Region: Site AFC recently installed OB5.1. The only site in the region yet to install OB5 is the RFC (at site ACR) and they are scheduled for September 28. With AFC running on OB5.1, they have the triggers for the HazCollect installation and will be part of the HazCollect testing next week. We look forward to getting beta 5 of OB6 on our headquarters system since it will get us the old GFS data back again so we can move ahead with the upcoming IOC.

Central Region: We have several field forecasters coming to headquarters to test the new delta of OB6, especially the WarnGen fixes. We need to go slow with implementing phase 3 of OB6 since this build is a big change and we need to do it right, so it doesn't adversely impact WFO operations.

Eastern Region: The OB5 installs are going well within the region. We also state the need to move slowly with OB6 as expressed by the Central Region. There are a lot of concerns with this software package and the ability to test the software before national deployment.

Pacific Region: nothing significant to report.

Western Region: nothing significant to report.

FSL: nothing significant to report.

Warning Decision Training Branch: We are working to get OB6 into the WES. So far, we have alpha version 7. Our biggest concern is to get Postgres to work with the WES.

NGIT: nothing significant to report.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, September 21, 2005. If you know of any agenda items you wish to be discussed at this RACC, please e-mail them to Jim Stenpeck and cc Wayne Martin. This is to ensure that all of the appropriate WSH personnel attend this RACC to address your issues.